

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A life-and-death monitoring method of monitoring, by any of a plurality of host computers connected to a common network, a life-or-death state of other host computer, comprising the steps of:

5 a step of transmitting a life-and-death monitoring packet including a table having a management order of a host computer to be managed, and an address and a check flag of said host computer from a management host computer to any of said host computers to be managed;

10 a step, by said host computer to be managed which has received said life-and-death monitoring packet, of checking a check flag of said table in which the address of said host computer is registered; and

15 a step, by said host computer to be managed which has completed said checking, of transmitting said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order of said table.

20 2. The life-and-death monitoring method as set forth in claim 1, wherein

5 when said host computer to be managed which have completed said checking and will transmit said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to

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be managed according to said management order recognizes  
in advance that said host computer to be managed which  
comes next in the management order is incommunicable,  
said life-and-death monitoring packet is transmitted to  
10 a further subsequently registered communicable host  
computer to be managed without sending the packet to the  
incommunicable host computer to be managed in question.

3. The life-and-death monitoring method as set forth  
in claim 2, wherein

when there exist a plurality of said host  
computers to be managed which are recognized as  
5 incommunicable, said life-and-death monitoring packet is  
transmitted to said host computer to be managed which  
comes further subsequently in the order to the plurality  
of incommunicable host computers to be managed in  
question.

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4. The life-and-death monitoring method as set forth  
in claim 1, wherein

at the end of the management order of said table  
in said life-and-death monitoring packet, an address of  
5 said management host computer is registered, so that  
said life-and-death monitoring packet which has been  
transmitted in said management order is lastly  
transmitted to said management host computer.

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5. The life-and-death monitoring method as set forth  
in claim 1, wherein

said management host computer having received  
said life-and-death monitoring packet generates said  
life-and-death monitoring packet including said table  
targeted at said host computer to be managed whose check  
flag of said table is not checked and transmits said  
packet to said host computer to be managed whose flag is  
not checked.

10 6. The life-and-death monitoring method according to  
claim 1, wherein

when said life-and-death monitoring packet is not  
returned to said management host computer, a new life-  
and-death monitoring packet is generated by changing the  
management order of said table in said life-and-death  
monitoring packet and transmitted.

5 7. A life-and-death monitoring system at a plurality  
of host computers connected to a common network,  
comprising:

a host computer to be managed and a management  
host computer for checking a life-or-death state of the  
host computer to be managed in question, wherein  
said management host computer transmits a life-  
and-death monitoring packet including a table having a  
management order of said host computer to be managed,

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10 and an address and a check flag of said host computer to  
any of said host computers to be managed, and

15                   said host computer to be managed which has  
received said life-and-death monitoring packet checks a  
check flag of said table in which the address of said  
host computer is registered and said host computer to be  
managed which has completed said checking transmits said  
life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host  
computer to be managed according to said management  
order of said table.

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8.         The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth  
in claim 7, wherein

5                   when said host computer to be managed which have  
completed said checking and will transmit said life-and-  
death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to  
be managed according to said management order recognizes  
in advance that said host computer to be managed which  
comes next in the management order is incommunicable,  
said life-and-death monitoring packet is transmitted to  
10 a further subsequently registered communicable host  
computer to be managed without sending the packet to the  
incommunicable host computer to be managed in question.

9.         The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth  
in claim 8, wherein

when there exist a plurality of said host

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computers to be managed which are recognized as  
incommunicable, said life-and-death monitoring packet is  
transmitted to said host computer to be managed which  
comes further subsequently in the order to the plurality  
of incommunicable host computers to be managed in  
question.

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10. The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth  
in claim 7, wherein

at the end of the management order of said table  
in said life-and-death monitoring packet, an address of  
said management host computer is registered, so that  
said life-and-death monitoring packet which has been  
transmitted in said management order is lastly  
transmitted to said management host computer.

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11. The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth  
in claim 7, wherein

said management host computer having received  
said life-and-death monitoring packet generates said  
life-and-death monitoring packet including said table  
targeted at said host computer to be managed whose check  
flag of said table is not checked and transmits said  
packet to said host computer to be managed whose flag is  
not checked.

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12. The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth

in claim 7, wherein

when said life-and-death monitoring packet is not returned to said management host computer, said management host computer generates a new life-and-death monitoring packet by changing the management order of said table in said life-and-death monitoring packet and transmits the generated packet.

13. A life-and-death monitoring computer program for use in monitoring, by any of a plurality of host computers connected to a common network, a life-or-death state of other host computer, comprising the functions of:

transmitting a life-and-death monitoring packet including a table having a management order of a host computer to be managed, and an address and a check flag of said host computer from a management host computer to any of said host computers to be managed,

at said host computer to be managed which has received said life-and-death monitoring packet, checking a check flag of said table in which the address of said host computer is registered, and

at said host computer to be managed which has completed said checking, transmitting said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order of said table.

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14. The life-and-death monitoring computer program as set forth in claim 13, further comprising the function of,

when said host computer to be managed which have completed said checking and will transmit said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order recognizes in advance that said host computer to be managed which comes next in the management order is incommunicable, transmitting said life-and-death monitoring packet to a further subsequently registered communicable host computer to be managed without sending the packet to the incommunicable host computer to be managed in question.

15. The life-and-death monitoring computer program as set forth in claim 14, further comprising the function of,

when there exist a plurality of said host computers to be managed which are recognized as incommunicable, transmitting said life-and-death monitoring packet to said host computer to be managed which comes further subsequently in the order to the plurality of incommunicable host computers to be managed in question.

16. The life-and-death monitoring computer program as

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set forth in claim 13, wherein

5 said management host computer having received  
said life-and-death monitoring packet has the function  
of generating said life-and-death monitoring packet  
including said table targeted at said host computer to  
be managed whose check flag of said table is not checked  
and transmitting said packet to said host computer to be  
managed whose flag is not checked.

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17. The life-and-death monitoring computer program as set forth in claim 13, further comprising the function of,

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when said life-and-death monitoring packet is not returned to said management host computer, generating a new life-and-death monitoring packet by changing the management order of said table in said life-and-death monitoring packet and transmitting the generated packet.